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27 June 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Services Staff

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FROM : [REDACTED]  
Acting Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT : 255 Foreign Service Documents Which Were Authorized for  
"Declassification" by the State Department in June 1975

1. You have requested a short report on details as known by CRD of an authorization for "declassification" by the State Department in June 1975 of 255 Foreign Service documents (held in NARS Records Group 59, Main Decimal file, 1945-1949). This authorization resulted in a NARS officer stamping these documents "Restrictions Removed." You have also requested comments on what can be done at this stage to handle this situation. The following is a summary of what occurred during 7, 13 and 14 June visits by CRD reviewers to NARS. (U)

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2. On 7 June Mr. Chet Dunham, a section chief in Mr. Alan Thompson's Declassification Division at NARS, asked our reviewers [REDACTED] to look at nine Foreign Service documents which had been stamped "Restrictions Removed" in July 1975 and released by the Diplomatic Division of NARS to at least one known professor (Potash) and perhaps a number of other researchers. He also mentioned that copies may have been made. As stated by Mr. Dunham, the matter had apparently recently come to the attention of Mr. Thompson's Declassification Division. A State Department letter authorizing the action taken by the Diplomatic Division existed but Mr. Dunham could not show the CRD reviewers a copy because he himself did not have it. The reviewers, however, were asked to take a look at the nine documents to give their opinion whether the documents should be held or released by the Declassification Division. These documents were State telegrams and dispatches which identified intelligence sources and methods, liaison equities and CIA Stations and the reviewers consequently recommended that the documents be held. (C)

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3. On 13-14 June, eighteen additional Foreign Service cables and dispatches from the same Records Group were given to CRD officers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to review. All eighteen documents were held for the same reasons as the first group of nine. At this time Mr. Dunham showed the State Department letter which authorized the "declassification action." (U)

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4. CRD officers have only reviewed about 10% of the documents and 228 remain to be examined. As these documents have been accessioned to NARS, it is recommended that CRD pursue this matter directly with Mr. Thompson's Declassification Division and complete the review. Furthermore, CRD can also alert Mr. Thompson to CRD's interest in reviewing other documents similarly marked "Restrictions Removed." (U)



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